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Featherstone  
Urban District Council

—x—

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical

Officer of Health

1941





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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
for the  
**URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF**  
**FEATHERSTONE**  
for the  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1941**

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To the Chairman and Members of the Council :

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of placing before you my Twenty-second Annual Report on the Health of your District for the year ended 31st December 1941, along with the Report of your Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Hilsley).

Owing to the prevailing conditions, both Reports are abbreviated, and only salient facts referred to.

**POPULATION.** The population for the year 1941 as given to me by the Registrar General is 12480, being a decrease of 50 on the previous year. I should have expected a larger decrease, as I am informed that over 800 of our young manhood have joined the Forces.

The size of the Sanitary Area is 4425 acres, and contains 3493 houses, giving a census of 3.5 per house.

During the year no new houses have been erected.

**RATEABLE VALUE—**

	April 1941	October 1941
	£51070	£51071
1d Rate (gross) equals	£212.15.10	£212.15.11
1d Rate (net) equals	£194. 2. 8	£194. 2. 8
		£      s      d
General Rate laid April 1941 at 10/- .....	21469	1    5
General Rate laid October 1941 at 10/- .....	21563	6    6
	<hr/>	
	£43032	7    11
	<hr/>	

**WATER USED—**

Half-year to March 1941	33,388,000 gallons costing	£2746. 3. 3
Half-year to Sept. 1941	37,557,000 gallons costing	£2094.16. 4

Average cost per 1000 gallons—18.83 pence, plus 5%

**RAINFALL DURING 1941—**

January .....	2.02 inches
February .....	2.24 inches
March .....	3.32 inches
April .....	1.41 inches
May .....	1.47 inches
June .....	0.17 inches
July .....	2.18 inches
August .....	2.55 inches
September .....	0.47 inches
October .....	1.40 inches
November .....	2.91 inches
December .....	0.29 inches
	<hr/>
	20.43 inches
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The wettest month was March with 3.32 inches, and the driest month was June with 0.17 inches. There were 244 days during the year when no rain fell.

**OUT RELIEF (PUBLIC ASSISTANCE).** Cost of Relief from 1st April 1941 to 31st March 1942 was £5125/13/7 in money, and £207/9/10 in kind, a total of £5333/3/5 (48 men, 82 women, 86 children—Total 216).

**UNEMPLOYMENT.** The average number of unemployed during the year was: Men 30, Women 5—a great reduction from previous years. The number of men registered for Military Service was 2424, and approximately 800 have been called up.

**BIRTH RATE.** 223 Live births were registered during the year (108 males and 115 females), 2 of the males being illegitimate and 5 of the females. In addition to the Live births, there were 8 Still births, all of which were legitimate.

This gives a Live Birth Rate of 17.8, and Still Births 0.6.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1941 was 14.2.

**DEATH RATE.** Total deaths during the year were 155 (93 males and 62 females), giving a Death Rate of 12.9.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

Of the total deaths, 22 died before they were a year old, and 81 were 60 and upwards.

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.** This is measured by the proportion of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Registered Births. The total Deaths under 1 year were 22, and the total Live Births 223, giving an Infantile Mortality of 99. The Infantile Mortality for last year was 53.

The Infantile Mortality for England and Wales was 59.

**ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.** The deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases (Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea) amount to 5, giving a Zymotic Death Rate of 0.40.

The following Table shows the number of Infectious Cases notified to me during the year 1941—

	Notified	Deaths
Typhoid	... 4	1
Scarlet Fever	... 9	-
Diphtheria	... 46	2
Erysipelas	... 6	-
Whooping Cough	... 28	1
Measles	... 329	-
Pneumonia	... 29	10
Puerperal Fever	... 2	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	... 3	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-
	<hr/> 458	<hr/> 14



## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1941

	Male	Female
Typhoid ...	-	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	-	1
Diphtheria ...	1	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...	4	2
Tuberculosis (Other Forms) ...	-	1
Syphilis ...	-	-
Influenza ...	3	-
Measles ...	-	-
Acute Arterio Myelitis ...	-	-
Cancer of Mouth, Gullet, Duodenum & Stomach	4	-
Cancer of Uterus & Breast ...	-	6
Cancer (All Other Places) ...	8	3
Diabetes ...	2	-
Apoplexy (Cerebral Thrombosis) ...	6	11
Heart Diseases ...	21	9
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	1	-
Bronchitis ...	8	6
Pneumonia ...	7	3
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum ...	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	-	1
Appendicitis ...	1	-
Other Digestive Diseases ...	-	-
Nephritis ...	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis ...	-	-
Other Maternal Causes ...	-	1
Premature Birth ...	3	2
Congenital Malformality, Birth Injuries etc. ...	4	2
Suicide ...	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents ...	1	2
Other Violent Causes ...	4	-
All Other Causes ...	13	8
Totals	93	62

**IMMUNISING.** My Council has done its best to immunise every child of school age or under, but these efforts are not responded to by parents. Every school (9 in all) has had an opportunity to accept this remedy, both last year and the present year, but we still have failed to get the children protected. During the year, 330 children were immunised.



CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH  
DURING THE YEAR 1941

CAUSES	All Ages	Un- der 1yr	1-2 yrs	2-5 yrs	5-15 yrs	15- 25 yrs	25- 45 yrs	45-60 yrs	Over 60 yrs
Typhoid	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	6	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-
Other Tuberculosis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Influenza	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer	21	-	-	-	-	1	3	6	11
Diabetes	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	17	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	16
Heart Disease	30	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	24
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Bronchitis	14	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	9
Pneumonia	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Premature Birth	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformality	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Other Violence	4	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
All Other Causes	21	3	1	-	-	-	3	1	13
Totals	155	22	1	2	3	3	21	22	81

# STATEMENT OF NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS

## DISEASES RECEIVED DURING 1941

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained		Cases removed to Hospital
Small pox	-	
Scarlet Fever	9	
Diphtheria (including Mem. Croup)	46	
Typhoid (Enteric Fever)	4	
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	29	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	-	
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	-	
Dysentery	-	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	
Erysipelas	6	
Respiratory Tuberculosis (new cases only)	5	
Other Forms Tuberculosis (new cases only)	7	
Malaria (contracted in this Country)	-	
Malaria (contracted abroad)	-	
Chickenpox	-	
Measles (excluding German Measles)	329	
Whooping Cough	28	
Other Diseases	-	
Smallpox	-	
Scarlet Fever	9	
Diphtheria	43	
Enteric Fever	4	
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	3	
Other Diseases (including Tuberculosis)	5	



## TUBERCULOSIS

## New Cases and Mortality during 1941

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulm.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 and under 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 and under 10	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
10 and under 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 and under 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 and under 35	3	1	2	-	2	-	-	-
35 and under 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 and under 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
55 and under 65	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	4	1	4	3	2	-	-	1

## Number of Cases on Tuberculosis Register

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm.		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
On Register 1 Jan. 1941	44	31	24	29	68	60
Added during year	4	1	4	3	8	4
Totals	48	32	28	32	76	64
Removed from Register during 1941	5	1	-	1	5	2
On Register 31 Dec. 1941	43	31	28	31	71	62

## Reasons for Removal of Cases from Tuberculosis Register

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
Died	5	-	-	1
Revised Diagnosis	-	1	-	-
Totals	5	1	-	1

**TUBERCULOSIS.** It was generally anticipated that there would follow an increase of Tuberculosis in the community, due to the war (owing to lack of food etc.), but this is not borne out in this district. There occurred by death during the year, 5 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis between the ages of 25 and 45, and 1 female from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The Death Rate for Tuberculosis was 0.47.

9 Scarlet Fever, 43 Diphtheria, 4 Enteric Fever and 3 Cerebro Spinal Meningitis Cases were sent to Isolation Hospital, but no deaths occurred in Scarlet Fever, and 2 in Diphtheria.

The cost to the ratepayers for Hospital Maintenance of Scarlet Fever (443 days) was £106/18/9, Diphtheria (1981 days) was £467/15/1, Cerebro Spinal Meningitis (131 days) was £33/2/5 and Enteric Fever (167 days) was £43/1/3, a total of £650/17/6.

**MEASLES.** 329 cases were all treated at home without assistance, and there were no deaths.

**CANCER.** 21 deaths occurred during 1941, 12 being males and 9 females, no part of the body being sacred from its ravages. This shows that 12% of the total deaths were due to this disease.

**VACCINATION.** 61 Primary Vaccinations were performed during 1941, showing only 27% of the children born alive were protected.

**VENEREAL DISEASE.** 14 cases of this nature were treated at the V.D. Clinic, Wakefield. I am indebted to the Surgeon for this information.

**HOUSING AND PRIVATE STREETS.** Both are in abeyance until the war is over.

**SANITARY WORK.** Our water supply is good and ample. All the houses in the district, with the exception of one, are connected with the Public Water Supply. The cost per 1000 gallons was 18.83 pence plus 5%.

**DRAINAGE.** With the exception of Ackton Wood Pastures, the drainage and two Sewage Farms are satisfactory.

**SCAVENGING.** The collection and disposal of House Refuse is done entirely by the Council workmen, and efficiently.



During the year, 1871 loads were removed to the Destructor, 3190 loads to Tips, and 2518 loads of liquid were removed from Cesspools to farm land. The cost of collection and disposal for the year amounts to £4557/18/4.

We still have 51 cesspools in this area, mostly associated with detached houses and Ackton Pastures. The cost in wages alone in giving attention to these cesspools was £293/18/8.

We have at present—

3019 water and waste-water closets  
 30 pail closets  
 350 privies  
 203 wet ashpits  
 305 dry ashpits  
 2187 dust bins

3 additional water closets have been provided for old property, and 33 privy closets were converted to water closets during the year. We have now 88.25% of the houses in this area on the water carriage system.

I would seek to draw your attention to Mr. Hilsley's Report. He is a most willing and valued servant of this Council. His books are all in good order and carefully kept.

The West Riding County Council are the supervising authority for Child Welfare and Maternity Work for this area.

There are 3 Centres for Child Welfare, 1 Centre for Ante-Natal Work (which is well attended), and 1 Centre for Toddlers.

We have 2 Health Visitors and 3 Certified Midwives engaged in the district.

In conclusion, I earnestly thank all the members of my Council for their kindly support on all occasions.

I am

Yours faithfully

WM. STEVEN, M.B.  
 M.O.H.

July 1942

# URBAN DISTRICT OF FEATHERSTONE

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## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1941**

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To the Chairman and Members of the Council :

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Fifteenth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary and Cleansing Departments for the year ended 31st December 1941. The report is very much curtailed in accordance with instructions.

**SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.** Despite the prevailing difficulties, more progress was made in the conversion of privies to water closets, and during the year, 33 privy closets were converted to water closets, and 3 additional water closets were provided to old property. 14 wet ashpits were replaced by 36 dust bins.

There are still 350 privy closets in the area, which should be converted as soon as circumstances permit.

**SCAVENGING.** Scavenging is done by direct labour, and is all done by day. Difficulties have been experienced with labour and transport, but these difficulties have been overcome, and during the year the scavenging has been satisfactorily carried out.

The estimated weight of refuse collected was 9200 tons. Of this quantity, 3392 tons were incinerated at the Destructor Works, and the remaining 5808 tons tipped. In addition, 2519 loads of



liquid from cesspools were disposed of, mostly on farm land.

Salvage of materials useful to the war effort has been carried out, and during the year the following materials were salvaged and sold :-

		Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs
Waste Paper	...	60	16	3	0
Bones	...	1	17	0	0
Bottles	...	1	6	0	0
Jars	...	6	7	1	0
Ferrous Metals	...	45	14	1	0
Non-Ferrous Metals	...	0	13	1	0
Textiles	...	2	14	0	0
Broken Glass	...	4	8	2	0
Kitchen Waste	...	3	8	3	0
Totals		127	5	3	0

The cash receipts for these articles were £461/17/5.

### FOOD SUPPLY—

**MILK.** Routine visits were paid to the farms, and on the whole the premises were kept in reasonable condition.

**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.** Slaughtering of animals for food is now curtailed, and with the exception of pigs killed by pig keepers, has practically ceased in your district. 77 pigs so killed were examined during the year. This however has not dispensed with the necessity for food inspection in your district.

During the year under review, the following articles of food have been condemned as unfit for human consumption and surrendered by the shopkeepers—

Bacon	...	26lb
Ham	...	23lb
Frozen Beef	...	99lb
Pork	...	35lb
Tinned Milk	...	35 tins
Tinned Meats	...	6 tins
Tinned Vegetables	...	6 tins
Tinned Fish	...	4 tins
Tinned Soups	...	2 tins
Tinned Fruit	...	3 tins

**SANITARY INSPECTION AND NUISANCES DISCOVERED.** Essential inspections for Nuisances and Housing were made during the year. Difficulty has been experienced in seeing the prompt execution of work owing to the shortage of materials and labour.

336 nuisances were discovered during the year, of which the greater portion were abated after the service of Informal Notices. 27 Statutory Notices were served, but it was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings.

**HOUSING.** No new houses were erected during the year. 62 houses were dealt with under the Housing Act 1936. Of these, 23 were rendered fit after the service of Informal Notices, and 39 Statutory Notices were served under Section 9. 31 of these were complied with, leaving 8 outstanding at the end of the year.

**CONCLUSION.** I beg to tender my best thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, to my Staff, and to my brother officials for their help, and to you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your support during a year rendered difficult by the circumstances prevailing.

I am, Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

JOHN HILLSLEY

Chief Sanitary Inspector











